

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CENTER

Pharmacy and Health. The nursing programs, the programs affiliated with USU, and continuing education programs are all coordinated by the RMCOEH Director. Supervision of the occupational medicine residency, industrial hygiene and safety program, and research areas is shared by the Director of RMCOEH and the Chief of the Division of Occupational and Environmental Health in DFCM. Currently, the RMCOEH Director and Division Chief are the same person. The Chief of the Division is responsible for RMCOEH faculty appointments in DFCM in the College of Medicine. An administrator reports directly to the Director of RMCOEH, and assists in planning budgets, prepar-

ing grants and contracts, fund-raising and solving the day-to-day operational problems.

Research grants and contracts are submitted through the Division of Occupational and Environmental Health or the Pulmonary Disease Division, and the appropriate departmental and college channels.

The RMCOEH is housed on one floor of a building adjacent to the University of Utah Health Sciences Center, and plans are being developed for additional research space. There are 25 full- or part-time faculty in the Center, and another 25 faculty participate to a lesser extent in the teaching and research programs.

Corticosteroids and Chronic Active Hepatitis

THERE ARE A LOT of questions now about the use of corticosteroids for treating chronic active hepatitis, and one more or less typifies them: Why use prednisolone instead of prednisone?

Well, the biochemical reason initially put forth was that prednisone must be acted on by the liver to produce prednisolone. Prednisone alone is not active; prednisolone is the active compound. It was thought, due to a series of studies done mainly by Dr. Powell (now in Australia) that this might make a difference—that is, in patients with very severe liver disease conversion of prednisone to prednisolone might be incomplete, thereby giving them a lower dose of active steroid during the acute phase of the illness. And if, for any reason, their condition began to get better later, then the conversion might be improved, thereby increasing their own effective dose. These changes with prednisolone are minor, however.

—WILLIS C. MADDREY, MD, *Baltimore*

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